

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 109996

FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 7167 ACTION SECSTATE DATED APRIL
18, 1978.

QUOTE:C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7167

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC, IT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO ANDREOTTI

REF: STATE 096901

1. I DELIVERED PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO ANDREOTTI ON APRIL 17.
HE WAS VERY APPRECIATIVE. HIS OFFICE RELEASED THE TEXT OF THE
LETTER TO THE PRESS ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 17. IN THE COURSE
OF OUR BRIEF CONVERSATION ANDREOTTI COMMENTED ON SEVERAL OTHER
TOPICS.

2. THE MORO KIDNAPPING. ANDREOTTI SAID THAT THE MORO FAMILY
HAD ASKED AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TO ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE WITH
THE RED BRIGADES FOR MORO'S RELEASE. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S
POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT, ALONG WITH THE ITALIAN CARITAS ORGANIZATION,
WERE THE SUBJECT OF SPECULATION IN THE PRESS OF APRIL 18. WITH
REGARD TO THE POLITICAL EFFECTS OF THE MORO KIDNAPPING, ANDREOTTI
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SAID THAT THE DC PARTY IS AND WILL REMAIN FIRM IN ITS OPPOSITION
TO GOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BR AND TO RELEASING PRISONERS,
PAYING RANSOM, ETC., IN RETURN FOR MORO'S RELEASE. HE SAID
THAT AS LONG AS THE DC REMAINS FIRM ON THESE POINTS, IT WILL
BE ABLE TO AVOID COMMUNIST OR OTHER PRESSURE FOR BRINGING THE
PCI INTO A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY. BY THE SAME
TOKEN, ANDREOTTI DOES NOT FORESEE ANY CHANGE IN THE LEADERSHIP

OF THE DC UNTIL THE MORO CASE IS DEFINITELY RESOLVED.
HE SAID THAT THE DC IS NOW BEING RUN BY AN INFORMAL COLLEGIAL
LEADERSHIP CONSISTING OF ZACCAGNINI, GALLONI, GASPARI,
BARTOLOMEI, PICCOLI, AND ANDREOTTI HIMSELF.

3. CALIFANO VISIT. ANDREOTTI STATED THAT HE LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING
SECRETARY CALIFANO DURING HIS VISIT TO ROME IN EARLY MAY. HE
SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE FRIULI DINNER IN SECRETARY CALIFANO'S
HONOR AND SAID THAT HE HOPES TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND THAT DINNER.

4. SOVIET SHIP REPAIR FACILITIES. ANDREOTTI MADE REFERENCE TO
SOVIET PRESSURE FOR SHIP REPAIR FACILITIES IN NAPLES. HE
SAID THAT THE EFFORTS OF THE SOVIETS, THE PCI, AND THE COMMUNIST
MAYOR OF NAPLES, PLAYED AGAINST THE EXTENSIVE UNEMPLOYMENT IN
NAPLES, HAD CREATED A SITUATION THAT REQUIRES A DOMESTIC POLITICAL
ANSWER. HE INDICATED HIS INTENTION TO RESIST SOVIET DEMANDS BUT
RAISED THE QUESTION WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO INCREASE
US NAVY SHIP MAINTENANCE IN NAPLES. HE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST
IN INFORMATION ON THE VOLUME OF US SHIP REPAIR ACTIVITY UNDER-
TAKEN IN NAPLES IN RECENT YEARS (WHICH WE WILL PROVIDE).
ANDREOTTI OBVIOUSLY WELCOMES A DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT IN NATO
BUT AT THE SAME TIME EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF FINDING A
DOMESTICALLY ACCEPTABLE POLITICAL BASIS FOR REJECTING SOVIET
OFFERS THAT WILL BE SEEN IN NAPLES AS PROVIDING AN ALTERNATIVE
SOURCE OF NEW EMPLOYMENT. GARDNER UNQUOTE VANCE

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